

Kane, Brittany

From: Rlewis0745 <rlewis0745@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 20, 2013 4:54 PM
To: AppropriationTestimony
Subject: Consolidation of the Legislative Committees

To Whom It May Concern,

Gov. Malloy's budget presented Feb.6, 2013 recommends consolidation of the Legislative Commissions into a to be formed Commission for Citizen Advocacy. Although our state has a budget crisis that needs to be urgently addressed, it is extremely important that any steps taken to save money now must not impair the fiscal sustainability of the state. The six commissions that would be eliminated under the governor's plan are commissions that plan, develop, and assist in implementing processes that can and **are** supporting the strengthening of the state's economic base. Via their unique ability to comprehensively and passionately focus on demographically diverse populations, I see the separate commissions approach as one that would produce longer term and stronger benefits to the state than the consolidated plan that is being put forth by the governor. I am most familiar with the African American Affairs Commission (AAAC). Its focus and work to date in the areas of Education, Health, Economic Development, Workforce Development, Criminal Justice, and the Environment are critical to the state's success. With the aforementioned, **I am asking you to please support the continuation of the Legislative Commissions by NOT supporting the formation of a consolidated Commission for Citizen Advocacy.**

Robert Lewis

Citizen, Town of South Windsor